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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

CHEN, CHONGSHAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,230

Applicant(s)

KURAMOCHI, MAMIKO

Examiner

Chongshan Chen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claims 1, 9 and 16 recites the limitation "the specifying operation" in the third limitation of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Correction for other lack of antecedent basis is required for claim 1-38.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 27 May 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

5. As per applicant's arguments regarding Bence does not disclose the selecting and dragging operations have been considered but are not persuasive. Estrada teaches a drag & drop operation that specifies the system to convert a data file to a fix format file (Estrada, Fig. 16, element 244, col. 5, lines 32-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the drag & drop operation as the specifying operation in the system of Bence, Jr. The drag & drop operation provides speed, ease of use to the user (Estrada, col. 20, line 57).

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6. As per applicant's arguments regarding the reference does not disclose a setting unit setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation have been considered but are not persuasive. Estrada teaches a setting unit that allows the user to drag and drop a document and convert the document to a fixed format (Estrada, Fig. 16, element 244, col. 5, lines 32-43).

7. As per applicant's arguments regarding the references do not disclose selecting and dragging any one of the format file and the data file have been considered but are not persuasive. Estrada teaches a drag & drop operation that specifies the system to convert a data file to a fix format file (Estrada, Fig. 16, element 244, col. 5, lines 32-43). Bence teaches a computer system accepts files in numerous formats, which may be initially unknown, and formatting them into a common format (Bence, Abstract, col. 1, lines 44-48). Clearly, the system of Bence converts any one of the format file and the data file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-22 and 24-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bence, Jr. et al. ("Bence, Jr.", 6,484,178) in view of Estrada et al. ("Estrada", 6,594,664).

As per claim 1, Bence, Jr. discloses a data processing system comprising:

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a display control unit of implementing a display module for displaying at least one format file containing a fixed format, and at least one data file containing item data to be set to the fixed format (Bence, Jr., Fig. 5);

a specifying control unit of implementing a specifying module for specifying any one of the format file and the data file, and specifying another category of file from this one file (Bence, Jr., col. 1, lines 60-66, "examining the submitted client data file; finding a known data format that most closely matches the format of the client data file, known data formats being stored in a format database"); and

a setting unit for setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation (Bence, Jr., col. 1, line 60 - col. 2, lines 8, "aligning the data contained in a given record, thus, creating a format corresponding to the client's data format...this function serves to mass convert the client's data records into a common data format").

Bence, Jr. does not explicitly disclose said specifying comprises selecting and dragging any one of the format file and the data file. Estrada teaches specifying comprises selecting and dragging any one of the format file and the data file (Estrada, Fig. 16, element 244, the drag & drop is a specifying operation that specifies the system to convert a data file to a fix format file/HTML file). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the drag & drop operation as the specifying operation in the system of Bence, Jr. The drag & drop operation provides speed, ease of use to the user (Estrada, col. 20, line 57).

As per claim 2, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose said setting unit sets the item data to the fixed format of the format file, and creates the plurality of files at one time (Bence, Jr. col. 2, lines 18-33).

As per claim 3, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation (Bence, Jr. Fig. 1, 5, 7, col. 2, lines 18-33).

As per claim 4, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose a distinguishing unit of distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file (Bence, Jr., Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 18-33).

As per claim 5, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 4, and further disclose distinguishing unit distinguishes between the file formats of the format file and the data file on the basis of any one category of element among extensions, file names and a file selection order (Bence, Fig. 4, 6A, 7, col. 7, line 65 - col. 8, line 15).

As per claim 6, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose a print control unit of implementing a print module for printing contents of the item data of the data file which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation (Bence, Jr., Fig. 4, Printer Maker/Model).

As per claim 7, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose said specifying control unit implements the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function (Estrada, Fig. 16, element 244).

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As per claim 8, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further disclose said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects (Bence, Jr., Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 17-42).

Claims 9-12 and 16-19 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claims 1-4.

Claims 13-15 and 20-22 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claims 6-8.

As per claim 24, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2, and further teach said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation (Bence, Jr., Fig. 1, 5, 7, col. 2, lines 18-49).

As per claim 25, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2, and further teach distinguishing unit distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file (Bence, Jr., col. 2, lines 18-49).

As per claim 26, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2, and further teach a print control unit implementing a print module printing contents of the item data of the data file which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation (Bence, Jr., col. 6, lines 58-60).

Claims 27, 32 and 37 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 7.

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As per claim 28, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2, and further teach said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects (Bence, Jr., col. 1, line 44 - col. 2, line 49).

Claims 29 and 34 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 24.

Claims 30 and 35 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 25.

Claims 31 and 36 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 26.

Claims 33 and 38 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 28.

10. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bence, Jr. et al. ("Bence, Jr.", 6,484,178) in view of Estrada et al. ("Estrada", 6,594,664) and further in view of Yuichi (JP 9282209).

As per claim 23, Bence, Jr. and Estrada teach all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, except for explicitly disclosing the format file and the data file are displayed as a list. Yuichi teaches displaying the files as a list (Yuichi, p13, [Solving Means]). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include displaying the files as a list in the system of Bence, Jr. and Estrada. It will easily allow the user to locate the file when the files are displayed as a list.

Conclusion

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chongshan Chen whose telephone number is 703-305-8319. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703)305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 31, 2004


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER